

REMARKS

The status of this application is that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was filed by depositing it in the mail on June 13, 2005, after receiving a Notice of Allowance that was mailed April 7, 2005. One purpose of the RCE is to have search and examination reports in a corresponding application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) made of record in the present application. Therefore, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed with the RCE.

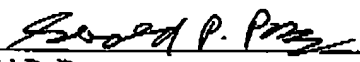
One purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to correct formal matters of allowed claims 8, 9, 10 and 12. Upon review of the allowed claims, it was noted that a term in each of dependent claims 8 and 10 lacked antecedent basis in its respective parent claim, and that claims 9 and 12 contained excess terms. With apologies for these errors, these claims are now deemed to be formally correct.

New method claims 13 - 28 are also being added by this Preliminary Amendment. Although using different terms and having somewhat different scope, the last paragraph of each of new independent claims 13 and 23 is similar to the last paragraph of claim 1, for which claim 1 was allowed. All of the new claims 13 - 28 are thus submitted to be patentable for at least this same reason.

Another Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith to make some additional U.S. patents of record in the file of the present application.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application remains in condition for allowance. However, if the examiner is aware of anything further that would benefit from a telephone discussion, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 415-318-1163.

Respectfully submitted,


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